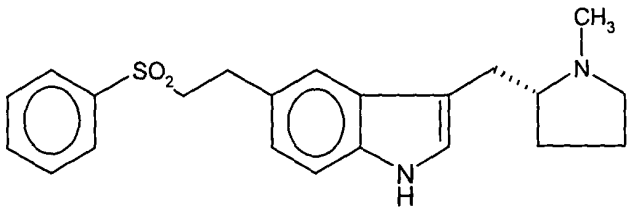
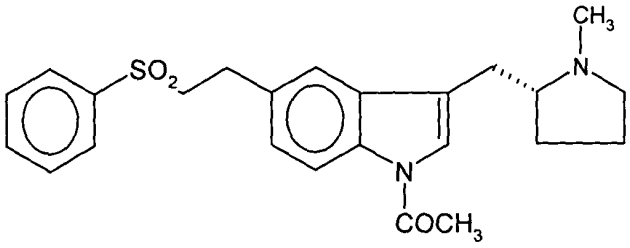
CLAIMS

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

which comprises hydrolysis of a compound of formula (II)

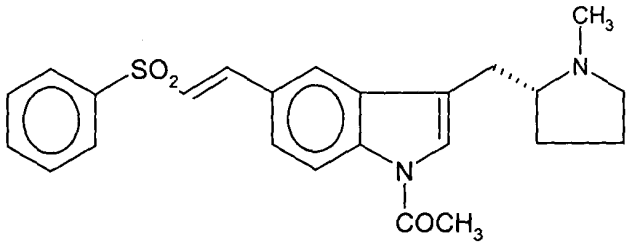


(II)

2. A process according to Claim 1 which is carried out under basic conditions.

3. A process according to Claim 2 wherein said hydrolysis is performed using potassium carbonate in methanol/water.

4. A process according to Claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (II) is obtained by catalytic reduction of a compound of formula (III)



(III)

5. A process according to Claim 4 wherein said reduction is carried out using hydrogen or a hydrogen source in the presence of a suitable catalyst.

6. A process according to Claim 5 wherein said reduction is carried out using hydrogen at a pressure of from 1 to 15 atmospheres.

7. A process according to Claim 5 wherein said reduction is carried out using a hydrogen source which is ammonium formate or formic acid.

8. A process according to according to Claim 4 wherein said catalyst is palladium on carbon, Raney nickel, platinum oxide, rhodium, or ruthenium.

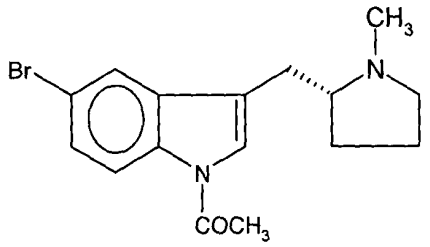
9. A process according to Claim 8 wherein said catalyst is 5% w/w palladium on carbon.

10. A process according to Claim 4 wherein the catalytic reduction is carried out in the presence of an acid.

11. A process according to Claim 10 wherein said acid is methanesulphonic acid, acetic acid, or trifluoroacetic acid.

12. A process according to Claim 4 wherein the compound of formula (II) obtained by catalytic reduction is slurried with cold aqueous tetrahydrofuran before hydrolysis to the compound of formula (I).

13. A process according to Claim 4 wherein the compound of formula (III) is obtained by treating a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

with phenyl vinyl sulphone in the presence of a palladium catalyst, a triarylphosphine and a base.

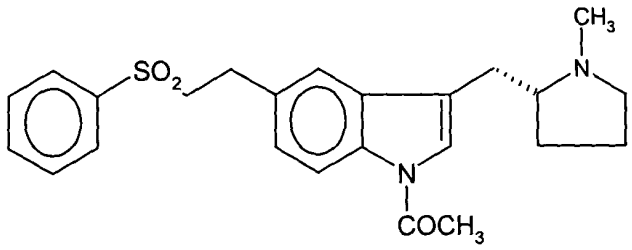
14. A process according to Claim 13 wherein the compound of formula (IV) is obtained by N-acetylating (R)-5-bromo-3-(N-methylpyrrolidin-2-ylmethyl)- 1H-indole.

15. A process according to Claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) so obtained is converted to a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt by treatment with an appropriate acid.

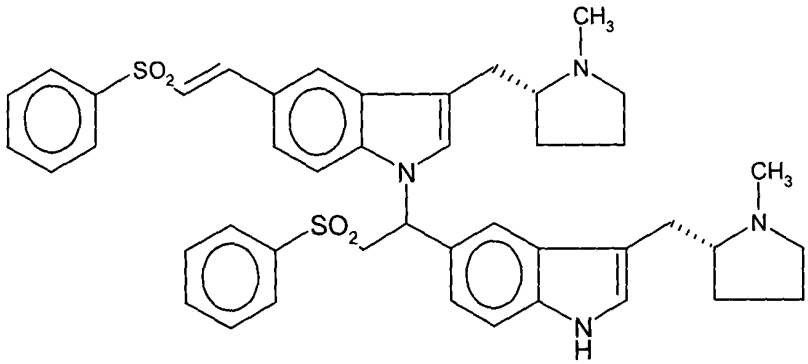
16. A process according to Claim 15 wherein said conversion is carried out *in situ* without isolation of the compound of formula (I).

17. A process according to Claim 15 wherein the acid is hydrobromic acid and the resulting salt is the hydrobromide.

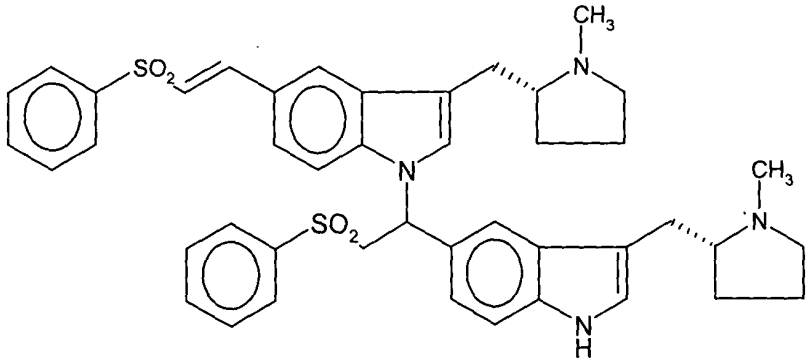
18. The compound of formula (II):



19. Eletriptan which is substantially free of

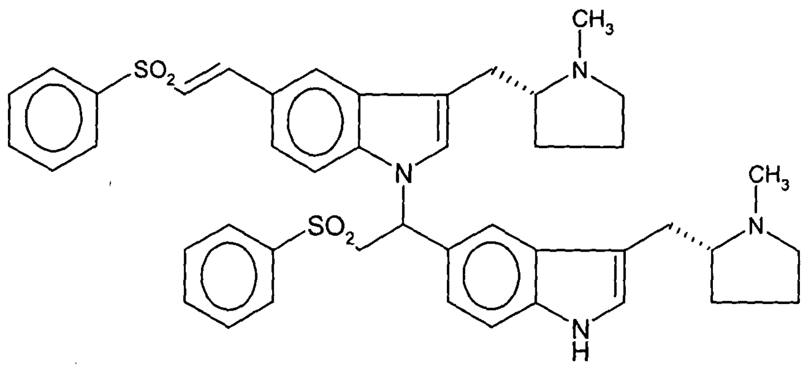


20. A pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt of eletriptan which is substantially free of



21. A pharmaceutical acceptable acid addition salt of eletriptan according to Claim 20 which is the hydrobromide.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising eletriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof which is substantially free of



and a suitable carrier or excipient.

23. A composition according to Claim 22 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt is the hydrobromide.